



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

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U.S. July 1 Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2007, totaled 104.8 million head, slightly below the 105.2 million on July 1, 2006 but 1 percent above the 104.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.5 million, were down slightly from the 42.6 million on July 1, 2006 but unchanged from two years ago.

Beef cows, at 33.4 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2005. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were unchanged from July 1, 2006 but up 1 percent from two years ago. Other class estimates on July 1, 2007 and the changes from July 1, 2006, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, unchanged.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.7 million, down 6 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.9 million, up 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.0 million, up 3 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.9 million, down 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 28.7 million, down 1 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.3 million, down 2 percent.

The 2007 calf crop is expected to be 37.4 million, down slightly from 2006 and 2005. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.2 million, down 1 percent from 2006 and 2005.

U.S. July 1 All Sheep, Lamb and Goat Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2007 totaled 7.73 million head, down slightly from July 1, 2006, and 1 percent below July 1, 2005. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.61 million head on July 1, 2007 was down slightly from July 1, 2006. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.12 million head, were also down slightly from last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.76 million ewes one year old and older, 185,000 rams one year old and older, and 665,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 3.06 million head was comprised of 1.81 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 360,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 250,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 65,000 head.

The 2007 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.12 million head, up 1 percent from the 2006 lamb crop of 4.09 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2007 totaled 3.64 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 480,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2007.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.5 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 18.4 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.3 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.5 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) for 15.3 percent.

U.S. July 1 Goat and Kid Inventory Up 4 Percent

All goat inventory on July 1, 2007 totaled 3.60 million head, up 4 percent from the previous July. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.69 million head, up 4 percent from July 2006. All market goats and kids totaled 905,000 head,

up 2 percent from the previous July. On July 1, 2007 meat and all other goats totaled 3.00 million head, up 5 percent from July 2006. Milk goat inventory was also up 5 percent increasing to 335,000 head while angora goat numbers fell 9 percent to 260,000 head. The 2007 kid crop is expected to total 2.03 million head, up 6 percent from the 2006 kid crop of 1.92 million head.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on July 1, 2007. The inventory was 1 percent below July 1, 2006 but 3 percent above July 1, 2005. The inventory included 6.74 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.93 million head, up 6 percent from 2006.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.66 million, 15 percent below 2006 and 6 percent below 2005. Net placements were 1.61 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 405,000, 600-699 pounds were 325,000, 700-799 pounds were 457,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 470,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.14 million, 3 percent below 2006 but up 3 percent from 2005. Other disappearance totaled 52,000 during June, down 17 percent from 2006 and 2005.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2007, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 12.3 million, down 2 percent from the 12.5 million on July 1, 2006 but up 3 percent from July 1, 2005. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 87 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2007, unchanged from July 1, 2006.

U.S. Pelt Production Up 8 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2006 totaled 2.86 million pelts, up 8 percent from 2005. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 885,100 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing State, produced 622,840 pelts.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2006 is as follows: Black at 49 percent, Mahogany at 21 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Demi/Wild at 6 percent, White at 4 percent, and Sapphire at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2006 crop year were valued at \$136 million, down 15 percent from \$161 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2006 crop year was \$47.50, down from \$60.90 in 2005.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2007 totaled 684,640, up 5 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2007 by color class are: Black at 51 percent, Mahogany at 20 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Demi/Wild at 5 percent, White at 4 percent and Sapphire at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6 percent.

There were 271 mink farms producing pelts in 2006, down 1 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Wisconsin with 68 farms, Utah with 66 farms, and Idaho with 27.

There were 16 mink farms which also raised fox in 2006, down from 19 the previous year.

June 2007 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2007, up 8 percent from June 2006 and 6 percent higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, up 200 head from one year ago. The average live weight increased 42 pounds to 1,186 pounds.

During June there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, was unchanged from last year. June sheep slaughter totaled 200 head, unchanged from June 2006. The average

live weight in June 2007 was 112 pounds, an increase of 24 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.03 billion pounds in June, down 3 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in June 2006.

Beef production, at 2.35 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.08 million head, down 3 percent from June 2006. The average live weight was down 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,250 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 10 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,100 head, up 4 percent from June 2006. The average live weight was down 45 pounds from last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.65 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.30 million head, down 1 percent from June 2006. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 267 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.7 million pounds, was down 5 percent from June 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,400 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 2 pounds from June a year ago.

January to June 2007 commercial red meat production was 23.6 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was up 6 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

2007 Wheat and Barley Varieties

Genou is the top winter wheat variety planted in Montana, and it jumped from the thirteenth position in 2006 to first this year. Farmers planted 353,400 acres of the variety, up significantly from last year's acreage of 42,600. The variety accounts for 16.1 percent of the state's acreage total, and it was released by Montana State University in 2004. **CDC Falcon** stays in second this year with 295,800 acres planted or 13.4 percent of the total winter wheat acreage in the state. The

acreage is up from last year's 212,100 acres. **Rampart** falls from the first most common winter wheat variety planted in 2006 to the third most common seeded in 2007 with 212,700 acres. It accounts for 9.7 percent of the state's planted acreage. **Neeley** is the fourth leading variety of winter wheat planted with 167,800 acres or 7.6 percent of all acres seeded. The top four varieties listed above account for 46.8 percent of the winter wheat acreage seeded in Montana for harvest in 2007 and accounted for 46.5 percent of the 2006 total.

Reeder is the top spring wheat variety planted this year with 667,500 acres planted or 26.2 percent of all spring wheat planted in Montana. This is the second year in a row this variety has been at the top of the list. Last year 813,100 acres were planted to the variety. **Choteau** rises to second with 594,100 acres planted this year, accounting for 23.3 percent of Montana's spring wheat acres. Last year 487,100 acres were seeded to the variety. **McNeal** is the third most common planted variety across the state this year with 368,900 acres planted or 14.5 percent of all acres seeded. **Conan** is the fourth leading variety for the fourth year in a row with 140,900 acres seeded, or 5.5 percent of the state's spring wheat acreage. The top four varieties listed above account for 69.5 percent of the spring wheat acreage seeded for harvest in 2007 and accounted for 72.2 percent of the 2006 total crop acreage.

Mountrail remains the top durum wheat variety in the state for the fourth year in a row with 221,300 acres seeded, or 41.8 percent of the durum wheat acreage. This year's acreage is up from the 210,500 acres planted in 2006. **Kyle** is in second place again this year. There were 77,900 acres seeded in the state, accounting for 14.7 percent of the total acres. **Lebsock** is the third most common variety this year with 61,300 acres seeded, or 11.6 percent of the state's durum wheat acreage. **Alzada** rises to the fourth leading durum wheat variety planted with 43,500 acres or 8.2 percent of Montana's durum wheat acreage. The top four varieties account for 76.3 percent of the total durum wheat acreage in the state for 2007 and accounted for 84.0 percent of the state's total 2006 durum wheat acreage. (continued on back page)

Winter Wheat

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 2/	2007
Genou	--	--	--	--	--	2.2	16.1
CDC Falcon	--	--	--	1.8	3.9	10.9	13.4
Rampart	15.9	19.6	25.7	28.6	24.8	19.2	9.7
Neeley	22.6	19.9	16.8	15.4	12.6	9.3	7.6
Ledger	--	--	--	--	--	2.4	5.9
Morgan	10.0	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.1	5.5
Jaqualene	--	--	--	--	1.5	6.2	5.4
Tiber	10.9	11.2	9.5	9.3	10.0	7.1	4.8
Rocky	8.9	11.1	8.0	6.0	7.6	7.1	4.4
Pryor	--	--	--	0.6	1.7	3.3	4.4
Yellowstone	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.9
Promontory	0.5	--	1.3	0.8	1.5	3.5	2.6
Vanguard	6.7	9.1	6.8	7.6	6.8	2.9	1.4
Big Sky	--	--	--	0.9	0.7	2.7	1.3
Redwin	4.0	5.0	3.0	2.4	2.5	1.7	1.3
Nuwest **	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.8
Winalta	2.1	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.4	1.0	0.8
Big Horn	3.0	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.1	0.4	0.8
Nufrontier **	--	--	1.5	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.8
Jerry	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Tomahawk	1.2	0.9	0.5	1.6	1.6	0.7	0.6
Judith	0.3	0.5	--	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.6
Quantum 542	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.5
Prowers 99	--	0.7	0.5	--	--	1.0	--
Nuhorizon **	--	--	--	--	--	0.5	--
Other & Unknown	10.2	10.2	14.1	10.9	11.0	8.1	6.7
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 2/ Revised. **White wheat variety. --Data not published for the given year.

Spring Wheat

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 2/	2007
Reeder	3.4	9.1	18.4	22.7	26.4	27.6	26.2
Choteau	--	--	--	--	1.5	16.5	23.3
McNeal	49.2	38.8	35.9	31.7	29.0	21.3	14.5
Conan	3.1	5.0	3.7	7.1	7.1	6.8	5.5
Fortuna	5.1	7.8	3.8	4.6	5.7	4.1	4.6
Ernest	10.1	11.4	11.0	10.0	10.7	5.5	3.2
Corbin	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.4
Hank	--	--	1.2	1.7	2.2	2.3	2.0
Amidon	7.8	6.2	4.0	3.0	2.5	1.8	1.6
Scholar	0.5	1.9	3.0	2.2	1.6	0.4	1.3
Westbred 936	1.5	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.0
Parshall	0.5	1.4	1.6	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.9
NorPro	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Outlook	--	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.6
Glenn	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Freyr	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Westbred 926	1.8	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5
Gunner	--	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7	--	0.4
Westbred Rambo	3.2	3.8	2.7	3.2	1.1	1.2	0.4
Lew	1.2	1.8	2.8	2.4	1.4	0.8	0.4
Len	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	--
Newana	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	--
Alsen	--	--	--	--	--	0.3	--
Grandin	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.5	--
Keene	0.7	0.3	--	--	--	0.3	--
Other & Unknown	8.8	7.1	7.1	6.2	6.2	6.7	9.3
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 2/ Revised. -- Data not published for the given year.

Durum Wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 1/	2007
Mountrail	9.6	26.9	35.7	42.1	52.9	52.6	41.8
Kyle	45.3	40.2	38.0	34.1	21.4	15.7	14.7
Lebsock	--	0.3	3.4	2.3	5.4	10.1	11.6
Alzada	--	--	--	--	1.3	4.8	8.2
Pierce	--	--	--	--	1.3	5.6	5.0
Dilse	--	--	--	--	--	0.8	2.6
Grande D'Oro	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.7
Ward	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.8	1.7	2.3	1.5
Strongfield	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.2
Monroe	3.3	1.2	3.4	1.7	1.9	0.6	1.2
AC Avonlea	3.9	3.4	4.3	7.2	5.3	2.3	1.0
Divide	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Grenora	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.5
Vic	1.6	1.4	--	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.3
Crosby	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	--	0.2
Maier	0.8	--	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	--
Ben	8.0	5.6	4.3	2.6	0.8	0.1	--
Other & Unknown	24.1	17.9	7.8	5.9	6.2	3.4	7.8
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. --Data not published for the given year.

Barley

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 1/	2007
Harrington *	45.7	47.6	47.1	39.8	29.4	28.7	22.4
Metcalfe*	--	--	0.7	4.9	9.2	17.6	19.5
Haybet	10.2	10.5	9.9	10.4	17.0	14.9	12.0
B Merit *	1.1	2.6	3.8	4.3	4.8	4.4	6.2
Haxby	--	--	--	--	0.6	1.6	3.9
Moravian 37	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.1
Baronesse	5.0	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	1.7	2.8
Hays	--	--	--	--	0.7	1.7	2.5
Conlon *	--	--	--	0.9	0.7	1.7	2.5
Bowman	2.1	3.0	2.1	1.4	2.6	2.2	1.9
Conrad *	--	--	--	--	1.4	2.9	1.9
Tradition*	--	--	--	--	1.5	3.4	1.7
Westford	2.7	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.7
Gallatin	3.3	1.9	2.9	3.5	1.7	1.1	1.6
Valier	0.6	1.1	0.9	2.3	1.5	1.9	1.3
Legacy *	--	0.6	1.0	2.8	1.3	1.6	1.1
CDC Copeland *	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.0
Horsford	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.0
Westbred Xena	--	--	0.9	0.9	2.4	0.8	1.0
Lewis	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.0
Hector	2.7	3.1	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.4	0.8
Piroline	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.8	--	0.8
Stellar *	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Menuet	0.4	0.7	--	--	--	0.4	--
Stark	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8	--
Prowashanupana	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	--
Other & Unknown	17.6	12.0	13.0	12.1	10.4	4.1	7.7
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised *Denotes variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. for planting in 2007. --Data not published for the given year.

Wheat and Barley Varieties

(continued from page two)

Harrington remains the top malt barley variety planted in the state for the fourteenth year in a row. It was seeded on 201,900 acres or 22.4 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **Harrington** has been recommended by the AMBA since 1989. **AC Metcalfe** is in second place again this year, with 175,100 acres planted, accounting for 19.5 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **B Merit** is the third most common malting barley variety planted in the state this year. Montana farmers seeded 56,000 acres or 6.2 percent of this year's total barley acreage. **Moravian 37** is ranked the fourth leading malting barley variety seeded for the 2007 crop year. A total of 27,500 acres or 3.1 percent of all barley is planted to the variety.

Haybet remains the top forage barley variety seeded for the eighth year in a row, with 108,200 acres seeded or 12.0 percent of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2007. **Hays** is the second most common forage barley variety seeded this year with 22,500 acres or 2.5 percent of the state barley acres. **Hays** moved from twelfth position in 2006 to eighth position in 2007 for all barley planted.

Haxby is the top variety planted for feed purposes in 2007. It was seeded on 35,300 acres this year and represents 3.9 percent of the state total. It moved up in 2007 to fifth place from fifteenth place in 2006 for all varieties seeded in Montana. **Baronesse** is the second most popular

feed barley variety seeded this year. It was seeded on 25,000 acres or 2.8 percent of the state's barley acreage.

June U.S. Milk Production Up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from June 2006. May revised production, at 14.9 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from May 2006. The May revision represented an increase of 7 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,713 pounds for June, 16 pounds above June 2006.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.29 million head, 19,000 head more than June 2006, and 2,000 head more than May 2007.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April - June quarter totaled 47.4 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the April - June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.13 million head, 2,000 head less than the same period last year.

June Egg Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.36 billion during June 2007, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.24 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 65

million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2007 averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,169 eggs, up slightly from June 2006.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2007 totaled 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 279 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.75 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2007, averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from July 1, 2006.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2007 totaled 40.0 million, up 7 percent from June 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.4 million on July 1, 2007, up 6 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 300,000 during June 2007, up 52 percent from June 2006.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2007 totaled 810 million, up 3 percent from June 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 668 million on July 1, 2007, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.55 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2007, down 1 percent from June 2006.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Sheep County Estimates
Farm Production Expenditures	Small Grains Production
Ag Land Values and Cash Rents	Hay Production

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John Hilton, Deputy Director
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